ImmuNet FAQs

Revision Date: April 1, 2016

Q: Can more than one staff in our organization use the same username and password to sign in to ImmuNet?

A: No, each user should have his/her own username and password for security reasons. Not everyone in your organization may need access, only those who need to look up patient records, enter data, or submit inventories/order vaccines.

Q: What data fields are required for reporting immunization data to ImmuNet?

A: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends certain core data elements to be reported to state immunization information systems. These data elements include: patient name, birth date, gender, race, ethnicity, mother's name, vaccine type, manufacturer, date and lot number. The specific list of data elements to be reported to ImmuNet can be found here at http://tinyurl.com/hq9v27h.

Q: When can providers start entering vaccine inventories into ImmuNet, and will there be specific training for this new functionality?

A: Providers can start using ImmuNet for vaccine inventories and to order specialty vaccines in January 2017. ImmuNet user training will be offered this fall.

Q: Can ImmuNet standard users enter vaccine inventories, or do you have to be an admin user?

A: A variety of different ImmuNet user roles will be able to submit vaccine inventories and order specialty vaccine in 2017.

Revision Date: March 1, 2016

About ImmuNet

Q: What is ImmuNet?

A: ImmuNet is the Maryland State Immunization Information System and a free service being offered to you. ImmuNet is a web-based system which maintains immunization records of persons of all ages in a confidential and secure manner. Starting in January 2017, ImmuNet will also allow enrolled VFC providers to submit VFC vaccine inventories to receive VFC supplied vaccines and to directly order specialty vaccines (e.g., influenza, DT, PPV23, Meningitis B).

Q: How can I found out more about ImmuNet?

A: Contact the ImmuNet Help Desk by email or phone # for your jurisdiction.

Email: dhmh.mdimmunet@maryland.gov

410-767-6606		410-303-8421	410-935-9295
Allegany	Kent	Baltimore	Frederick
Anne Arundel	Queen Anne's	Baltimore City	Montgomery
Calvert	St. Mary's	Harford	Prince George's
Caroline	Somerset	Howard	
Carroll	Talbot		
Cecil	Washington		
Charles	Wicomico		
Dorchester	Worcester		
Garrett			

Q: **Why is ImmuNet needed?**

A: By two years of age, more than 20% of the children in the U.S. have seen more than one health care provider. As a result, multiple medical records are created and parents often lack a complete and accurate record of their child's immunization status. ImmuNet acts as a connection between multiple providers and tracks which vaccinations were given and which ones are needed.

ImmuNet helps sustain high immunization rates and low disease levels with more efficient management of information. It will also save money by ensuring that children get only the vaccine they need and improve provider office efficiency by reducing the time needed to gather and review immunization records. ImmuNet also eliminates the need to fill-out school, camp and other commonly requested vaccination forms.

Q: **How can ImmuNet help my patients?**

A: ImmuNet helps patients by consolidating immunization information into one reliable source. Up-to-date information on their vaccination history helps to prevent unnecessary vaccination. Once fully populated with data ImmuNet will allow you to find almost anything vaccine related for your patient. To become fully populated every vaccine provider's participation is needed.

Q: **Why are Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers being mandated to use ImmuNet and report data to ImmuNet?**

A: The Maryland VFC Program is a federally-funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who otherwise might not be vaccinated because of an inability to pay. Currently, the national VFC program covers the purchase of $4 billion in vaccines each year. Because the VFC program is need-based, strong accountability and program stewardship among VFC providers are essential to maintaining a robust program. As the cost of childhood vaccines increases and immunization programs become more complex, there is a greater need to ensure strict adherence to program guidelines. The Maryland VFC Program believes mandating the use of ImmuNet will support your existing efforts to be effective stewards of VFC vaccines.

Q: **When does the VFC mandate take place?**

A: The VFC mandate for providers to order VFC vaccines through ImmuNet and report data to ImmuNet will take place on January 2017.

ImmuNet Access and Enrollment

Q: **How do I register to become a user of ImmuNet?**

A: You can sign up with our online enrollment form at http://tinyurl.com/mdimmunet. It's fast, easy and free.

Q: **What do I need on my computer to use ImmuNet?**

A: Most computers with reliable internet access are adequate for ImmuNet use. You can ask the ImmuNet Help Desk to help you evaluate your current system technology and identify any gaps.

Q: **I had an ImmuNet account, but I have not used ImmuNet and have forgotten my username and password. Is my account still active or do I need to re-enroll?**

A: No, contact the ImmuNet Help Desk to reset your password and send your login information.

Q: **Is there a cost to use ImmuNet?**

A: No, ImmuNet is free to vaccine providers and schools. The only cost that may be incurred is associated with maintaining internet access and implementing an interface in your Electronic Health Records (EHR) system for data exchange.

Q: **What do I do if I am having trouble accessing the ImmuNet system?**

A: Contact the ImmuNet Help Desk. The Help Desk is available from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to address any problems you may be experiencing with ImmuNet. Moreover, the Help Desk is available to receive your comments and suggestions as well.

Q: **Is training available for providers?**

A: There are user guides and online training videos available on the ImmuNet webpage at http://tinyurl.com/mdimmunet. In the coming months, Maryland VFC will send updates, implementation tips, and webinar training announcements to help you prepare for the 2017 changes.

Reporting to ImmuNet

Q: **How do providers submit data to ImmuNet?**

A: Providers can submit data to ImmuNet in a variety of different ways. Methods of sending data include the use of SOAP web service, Secure File Transfer or manual data entry. Formats for sending data electronically can be in standard HL7 or flat file formats. For Meaningful Use (MU), standard HL7 format is required.

Providers with Electronic Health Records (EHR) should work with their EHR vendor to automate their electronic data submission. For help with any type of data submission contact the ImmuNet Help Desk.

Q: **What can I do to get ready for electronic data exchange?**

A: Please view the steps for data exchange at http://tinyurl.com/zugwa83. Providers interested in electronic data exchange should contact the ImmuNet Help Desk.

Q: **Can my office staff enter vaccination records into ImmuNet?**

A: Yes, the provider accepts the responsibility for the submission of vaccination records and may authorize additional members of the office staff to enter the records.

Q: **We provide only tetanus and flu shots (or some other limited vaccine schedule) in our office. Do we still have to report to ImmuNet?**

A: Yes, any vaccination administered can be reported to ImmuNet. The more data entered into ImmuNet the more of a bonus it becomes for you. ImmuNet will also be a source of information available to consult before administering your vaccines, helping to avoid unnecessary duplicates.

Meaningful Use

Q: **What is the CMS EHR Incentive Program?**

A: The U.S. government introduced the program in 2009 to encourage providers to adopt an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, and show that they are 'meaningfully using' their EHRs. In doing so, eligible providers can receive financial incentive payments.

Q: **Where can I find more information about the CMS EHR Incentive Program or Meaningful Use?**

A: Visit the CMS website at www.cms.gov and type "EHR incentive program basics" into the search box to learn more about the EHR Incentive Program and Meaningful Use.

Q: **Can I still use or send data to ImmuNet if I am not eligible for the CMS EHR Incentive Program or if I do not wish to participate in the CMS EHR Incentive Program?**

A: You do not need to participate in the EHR Incentive Program to use ImmuNet or report/send data to ImmuNet.

Submitting Vaccine Inventories & Other Specialty Vaccines (Starting 2017)

Q: **Will I be able to order vaccines through ImmuNet?**

A: Yes. VFC Providers will now be able to order all VFC supplied vaccines through ImmuNet.

Q: **Will I still have to fax the VFC inventory form?**

A: No. VFC Providers will enter their VFC vaccine inventories directly into ImmuNet. Faxing paper inventories will be unnecessary.

Q: **Can I order flu vaccine and other specialty vaccines (e.g., DT, PPV23, Meningitis B) through ImmuNet?**

A: Yes, however you will still have to document your need for specialty vaccine orders.

Q: **How can I track my vaccine order through ImmuNet?**

A: Once orders show as shipped in ImmuNet, the vaccine order screen will show the FedEx or UPS tracking number.